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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/CM AND EAP/K

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SUBJECT: ROKS BRIEFED ON CCP OFFICIAL WANG JIARUI'S VISIT
TO DPRK

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Aubrey Carlson. Reasons 1.
4 (b/d).

11. (C) Summary: Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee International Liaison Department (CCID) Director Wang Jiarui met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il for five hours during his January 21-24 visit to Pyongyang and reports Kim appeared well, according to ROK Embassy contacts who were briefed on the visit by Wang's staff. Kim reportedly told Wang that he wants DPRK-ROK relations to return to "the good days of the past" and is in a "wait and see" mode regarding the United States. End Summary.

Kim Appears Healthy

12. (C) Kim Heon, Counselor at the ROK Embassy in Beijing, briefed PolOff February 5 on the readout his DCM received February 2 from the Chinese on CCP Central Committee International Liaison Department (CCID) Director Wang Jiarui's January 21-24 visit to Pyongyang. The briefing to the South Koreans was provided by CCID Spokesman Guo Yezhou who accompanied Wang on the visit to North Korea. Guo told the ROK DCM that Kim Jong-il granted Wang Jiarui a two-hour audience followed by a three-hour banquet. Wang presented Kim a letter from PRC President Hu Jintao that Kim accepted with both hands extended. Guo reported that during the meeting and banquet Kim appeared lucid and fit "as recent photos from North Korea indicate" and evinced nothing to indicate he had suffered a stroke. Guo said that Kim refused to drink red wine during the meal but appeared to drink baijiu (i.e., clear alcoholic spirits).

Kim's Message

13. (C) Guo told the South Koreans that Kim Jong-il laid out a three-part message:

-- North Korea does not want ROK-DPRK relations to worsen and wants to see the North-South relationship return to "the good days of the past."

-- North Korea is "going to wait and see if the United States is willing to abandon its hostile policy and seek peace with the DPRK." If the United States is willing to do so, North Korea will have no reason to object to U.S. policies.

-- North Korea maintains that the normalization of U.S.-DPRK diplomatic relations and the nuclear issue are separate issues. "They have nothing to do with each other," Kim reportedly said. The United States should eliminate the

nuclear threat it poses to the DPRK.

¶4. (C) Turning to the Six-Party Talks, Guo said that Kim Jong-il expressed DPRK desire to "coexist with related countries" and wishes to advance the Six-Party Talks process with the PRC.

ROK Analysis

¶5. (C) ROK Embassy Counselor Kim told PolOff that his DCM believed that Guo seemed fairly "conservative and restrained" during the briefing. Kim suspected Guo's restraint was due to the possible fact that during Wang's visit to North Korea, China offered Pyongyang substantial economic aid -- a development not reported in the media until February 4. The ROK Embassy has requested the MFA provide a detailed briefing about the reported aid package. Counselor Kim emphasized that his Embassy had no independent information to confirm the aid stories carried in the DPRK media and western wire services
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